WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1   1.   A method for scheduling work and delivery of material for items in a

2   factory comprising:

3   obtaining a customer order, the customer order including an item ordered by a

4   customer, the item having an associated quantity of a material to

5   produce, the customer order including a desired shipping schedule;

6   determining a current state of an available inventory of material from a

7   plurality of material sources;

8   generating a material request plan for producing the item using the customer

9   order and the current state of the available inventory, the generating a

10   material request plan including scheduling based upon the desired

11   shipping schedule;

12   executing the material request plan, the executing the material request plan

13   taking into account the desired shipping schedule.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein

2   the desired shipping schedule, the customer order and the current state of the

3   available inventory are used to generate a subsequent work schedule

4   and the material delivery schedule.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein

2   the obtaining the customer order includes using a status for the customer

3   order, the status for each customer order being updated continuously;

4   and

5   the status for each outstanding customer order corresponds to an outstanding

6   status.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein

2   the item is an information handling system.

1   5.   A system for scheduling work and delivery of material for items in a
2   factory comprising:
3   means for obtaining a customer order, the customer order including an item
4   ordered by a customer, the item having an associated quantity of a
5   material to produce;
6   means for determining a current state of an available inventory of material
7   from a plurality of material sources;
8   means for generating a material request plan for producing the item using the
9   customer order and the current state of the available inventory;
10   means for executing the material request plan, the means for executing the
11   material request plan including means for netting deliveries of material
12   with planned requests for material during the executing of the material
13   request plan.

1   6.   The system of claim 5 wherein
2   the desired shipping schedule, the customer order and the current state of the
3   available inventory are used to generate a subsequent work schedule
4   and the material delivery schedule.

1   7.   The system of claim 5 wherein
2   the obtaining the customer order includes using a status for the customer
3   order, the status for each customer order being updated continuously;
4   and
5   the status for each outstanding customer order corresponds to an outstanding
6   status.

1   8.   The system of claim 5 wherein
2   the item is an information handling system.

1   9.   An apparatus for scheduling work and delivery of material for items in

2   a factory comprising:

3   an obtaining module, the obtaining module obtaining a customer order, the

4   customer order including an item ordered by a customer, the item

5   having an associated quantity of a material to produce;

6   a determining module, the determining module determining a current state of

7   an available inventory of material from a plurality of material sources;

8   a generating module, the generating module generating a material request plan

9   for producing the item using the customer order and the current state of

10   the available inventory;

11   a plan execution module, the plan execution module executing the material

12   request plan, the plan execution module including a netting module,

13   the netting module netting deliveries of material with planned requests

14   for material during the executing of the material request plan.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein

2   the desired shipping schedule, the customer order and the current state of the

3   available inventory are used to generate a subsequent work schedule

4   and the material delivery schedule.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein

2   the obtaining the customer order includes using a status for the customer

3   order, the status for each customer order being updated continuously;

4   and

5   the status for each outstanding customer order corresponds to an outstanding

6   status.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein

2   the item is an information handling system.